at least 10 per cent of executives covered by the criteria should be transferred each year. In order to effectively implement this transfer policy, a decision has been taken in the year 1998 to transfer 20 per cent of executives each year based on station seniority. As per the said policy, executives of M1 and above grades working in sensitive discipline are transferable from existing company on completion of five years.

As regards Directors (Board Level Appointee), they are Presidential appointee and appointed to a particular post. There is no laid-down policy for their transfer. However, Ministry of Coal and Mines is empowered to take a decision in any particular case on merit.

Illegal Trade of Coal

1069. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal trade of Coal causing loss of Crores of Rupees to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments also found in black marketing of Coal; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government against those State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Coal sales to the non-core sector are done by Coal India Limited (CIL) against linkages and sponsorships or under the open sales scheme. The subsidiaries of CIL have asked the State Governments concerned to verify the linkages and sponsorships. A number of steps have been taken to prevent illegal theft of coal through increased efforts by security agencies like CISF etc. deployed by the coal companies.

(c) No such facts have come to the knowledge of the Government.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.